



December 17, 2021

Via email to: jtaustin@gov.wa.gov

Governor Jay Inslee
416 14th Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Emergency Measure Order Funding for European Green Crab

Dear Governor Inslee,

The invasion of European green crab (EGC) onto Lummi Reservation tidelands and into the greater Salish Sea region represents a serious threat to the Lummi Nation's treaty fishing rights, and to all Puget Sound treaty tribes, state recreational fisheries and our shared Salish Sea ecosystems. We greatly appreciate the technical support and ongoing collaborative effort between Lummi Nation and WDFW Invasive Species Division to address the initial detection. Our work together has identified a severe outbreak of EGC on our reservation tidelands that has resulted in the Lummi Indian Business Council to declare a disaster and direct our Natural Resources policy and technical staff to respond swiftly to this serious threat. I urge you, without hesitation, to also issue an emergency measure order and support WDFW's funding request for emergency funding and to support additional funding through the supplemental budget.

Since the first detection, Lummi Natural Resources (LNR) staff have worked closely with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Washington Sea Grant (WSG) to prioritize EGC trapping and removal from Lummi Reservation tidelands, and in particular, the Lummi Sea Pond. However, in recent months, the number of EGC being trapped in the Lummi Sea Pond has grown exponentially, and with it the concern by tribal and non-tribal resource managers alike. On November 23, 2021, the LIBC passed a tribal resolution (#2021-158) declaring the EGC invasion a disaster, establishing a Lummi EGC Task Force to develop and

implement a strategy for responding to the green crab invasion and highlighting the need for additional funding and logistical support.

Under the directive of Lummi tribal resolution #2021-158 I want to communicate my full support of WDFW's request for emergency funding to implement the highest priority emergency management actions, including immediate population control actions for the Lummi Sea Pond, and for 2022 supplemental legislative funding to continue emergency management actions. The window of opportunity to control the growing EGC population is closing; a decisive and aggressive response is urgently needed to protect nearshore habitats and the species that depend on them.

I implore you to rise to this call to action and immediately issue an emergency measure order, fully fund WDFW's emergency funding request, and strongly support WDFW's supplemental budget request. Our shared resources depend on our continued collective work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Jones Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Jones Jr., Chairman
Lummi Indian Business Council
WilliamJ@Lummi-nsn.gov
360-312-2197

(cc)

Kelly Susewind, Director WDFW
Brendan Brokes, WDFW North Puget Sound Region Director
Jim Woods, WDFW Director of Tribal Affairs
Senator Christina Rolfes
Senator Elizabeth Lovlett
Representative Sharon Shewmake
Representative Alicia Rule
Representative Debra Lekanoff
Representative Alex Ramel